

**MINUTES OF THE EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING**

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2009

HANAFORD SCHOOL CAFETERIA

200 MIDDLE ROAD

EAST GREENWICH, RI 02818

**ANY ITEMS CONSIDERED BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MAY BE
SUBJECT TO A VOTE 7:00p.m. Regular Session**

I. Call to Order

The second May meeting of the East Greenwich School Committee was held on Tuesday, May 19, 2009 at the Hanaford School at 7:00p.m. Members present: JeanAnn Guliano-Chair, Anne Palumbo-Vice-Chair, Susan Records, Robert Durant, Mary Ellen Winters, and Deidre Gifford, as Director of Administration, Maryanne Crawford, and Director of Special Education, Paula Dillon Mr. Martin was absent.

II. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

IV. On a motion made by Mrs. Palumbo and seconded by Mr. Durant, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2009 meeting and Executive Sessions of April 7 (before regular meeting) and April 28.

V. Announcements and Recognitions

The following Advanced Elementary Chorus students were

recognized for receiving a **SUPERIOR RATING** at the **RI Music Educators Elementary Choral Festival** at **Winman Junior High School**:
Shelby Bailey, Justin Ferra, Yash Gokhale, Ashley Grosso, Kerry Hood, Erin Kalandar, Samantha Koplik, Alexia Lekos, Kaitlyn Schafer, Liam Shaughnessy, Emily Swanson, Lauren Swanson, Leda Vargas, Jazmine Wilding and Ming-Yi Wu.

VI. Action Items

a. Leave of Absence

i. Mrs. Records made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Durant to approve the leave of absence of Heather Wardwell, Latin Teacher at East Greenwich High School, for the 2009-2010 school year. It was noted that this is without pay and benefits and this position will be hard to fill. Mrs. Wardwell will be missed. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Appointment

i. Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Records to approve the appointment of Pasco Fedeles, Custodian at East Greenwich High School for 4 hours per day, effective June 1, 2009. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Mrs. Palumbo made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Records to approve the out-of-state field trip to Boston Museum of Science for Cole Middle School 8th graders on June 17, 2009. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Presentation of Social Studies Curriculum- This item was tabled.

e. Award Bids for Phase I

i. EGHS General Contractor-Science Rooms

Mr. Winikur stated that the lowest qualified bidder was E.W. Burman. He noted that they are all working with town departments so they don't violate the noise ordinance. He will keep local officials engaged in the process. A previous concern with the electrical capacity was discussed and there is no problem. Mrs. Records made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to award the bid to E.W. Burman in the amount of \$2,223,810 for renovations of the EGHS science classrooms contingent upon final approval of the revised budget by the Town Council. The motion passed unanimously.

ii. Cole Middle School-General Contractor

Mr. Winikur stated that when school gets out, work will begin on Phase 1 to demolish the Cole Middle school gym. He added that Lusi Construction was the lowest qualified bidder at \$1.2 million. Mr. Winikur stated that a subcommittee is being formed to travel to Boston to look at other middle schools. He also noted that there will be parent outreach to discuss living through a construction project. At the parent meetings recently held, people

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were very satisfied. Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to award the bid for Phase 1 work at Cole to Lusi Construction in the amount of \$1.197

million contingent upon final approval of the revised budget by the Town Council. The motion passed unanimously.

iii. ESCO RFQ

Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Records to approve the RFQ for Comprehensive Energy Services. The motion

passed unanimously. Mr. Durant asked if there was a chance of receiving stimulus money for this. Mr. Wilmarth answered yes. The bids could be received in less than a month. Mr. Wilmarth will update the East Greenwich Energy Commission.

VII. Discussion

a. East Greenwich Education Foundation Update-Jack Sommer

Mr. Sommer stated that this foundation was incorporated on January 27, 2009. He added that they are now in fundraising mode and are over 25% toward their goal. Requests for grant are coming in and will be looked at to see if teachers meet the criteria. Mr. Sommer stated that donor cards are available and the June 1 goal is \$50,000. A Science lab grant has been discussed. Mr. Sommer noted that their website will be up and running in July or August.

b. Building Committee Report-This was discussed earlier.

c. Fields Committee Report

Ernie DiSaia and Mike Feeney were present at the meeting. They spoke about the irrigation issue and hope to have a determination by the middle of June. They are now looking at alternatives. It was noted that the fields currently designed are okay for the schools and by adding two fields it gives the recreational leagues plenty of playing space. Mr. Feeney stated that since we have to add an irrigation basin we can't add fields on the McHale Property. He added that the irrigation basin issue came up within the last 60 days but the surprise is in the size of the basin. We expected to use well water but Mr. Feeney said we had to put in a basin. Mr. Feeney stated that they may have another engineering firm take a look at it. The primary

concern is completing Phase 1. Mrs. Guliano stated we promised the Town Council we would develop the McHale Property. Mr. Durant asked if we finish Phase 1 and get reimbursement from the State the money may be available to develop the McHale Property. Mrs. Crawford stated that reimbursement from RIDE is not a lump sum. Mr. Winikur noted that all McHale work was non-reimbursable anyway. Mr. Feeney noted that the Fleet Construction numbers are accurate and they are using every cubic foot they can.

d. Financial Report

i. Status UCOA

Wendy Schmidle was present at the meeting and spoke about this complex project which needed to be dovetailed into other projects. The UCOA is at the end of the projects. She stated that weekly meetings will occur every Wednesday and the first priority is a draft. She also stated that the auditors want us to keep two separate databases working, and 2009-2010 purchase orders will be entered using the existing Munis system. Mrs. Schmidle stated that we need to report financial information to RIDE mid October and we will be ready. She noted that journal entries will have to be done for the first month. The Town needs five people to work on the project.

ii. Budget 2010

Mrs. Crawford stated that the Town Council approved the total budget and added \$45,000 in additional revenue to the schools. On June 9th, the budget will be presented at the Financial Town Meeting. The Superintendent presented the School Committee with a reduction worksheet and the School Committee needs to decide where the cuts

are to be made. There is a need to look at the CPT Program which may be funded with stimulus money.

e. Youth Intervention Initiative Update-Bob Houghtaling

Mr. Robert Houghtaling, Drug and Substance Abuse Counselor, spoke to the Committee about the Youth Initiative that was passed at the beginning of the year. He noted that the drug program is seeing 30% of clients for mental health, adding that this is the first year that stats have been compiled. He feels this is a unique opportunity for town resources to work with school resources. He added that the relationship between the schools and police is healthy. Mr. Houghtaling noted that the alcohol consumption rate at the high school is worse than the state norm, and Cole Middle School was higher than the state norms for alcohol, drug, and tobacco indicators. He noted that the School Committee's

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subcommittee will work with him to develop a program to bring in speakers. Mrs. Palumbo would like this done within the next couple of weeks. She would also like to see the school police reports. Mr. Houghtaling feels we need to look at how we do things at the elementary level. Since the majority of his clients are not special education students, he feels more emphasis needs to be put on transitioning students. Mrs. Palumbo feels we need people to get together from elementary to high school and she blames the School Resource Officers for not being there. Mrs. Guliano asked Mr. Houghtaling if he is seeing an increase in substance abuse in the

elementary and middle school over the last twenty years. Mr. Houghtaling feels there is abuse of prescription medications. He noted that too many kids are diagnosed with anxiety and depressive related disorders in the elementary grades and those things lead to substance abuse. It goes back to parenting support. Mrs. Palumbo stated that after the ACI Program, parents are afraid and there were very few after prom parties this year.

f. Superintendent Search Process

Mrs. Guliano stated that six semi-finalists will be interviewed and will then be narrowed to 2 to 4. Visits will then take place and she hopes to have the interviews. The School Committee will conduct final interviews. We may need to have an interim superintendent. The Committee hopes to have someone in place by September 1, 2009 and Mr. Meyers is putting together a transition plan.

VIII. School Committee Concerns

Technology Survey- Mrs. Records is trying to set up a meeting with Janet Novack to see what data she collected. The Town Council would like to meet with Ms. Novack also. Town Council will pay if there is an additional cost. Mrs. Dillon stated that Ms. Novack needs information from her regarding progress monitoring for her special education students' needs.

IX. On a motion made by Mrs. Records and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee being polled individually, voted unanimously to adjourn and go into Executive Session, at 9:35p.m. under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (2) for Teacher Contract Negotiations.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Giuliani
Secretary